

Council Minutes
Special Called Meeting
April 27, 2026, 6:30 p.m. - 413 Front Street, Coeburn, VA

A budget workshop meeting was held to discuss the proposed FY 2027 budget.

Attendees:

Upon roll call, all members of council were present. Jimmy Williams - Town Manager, Cathy Sharpe - Clerk/Treasurer, and William Sturgill - Town Attorney, were also present.

Call to Order:

Mayor Deventae Mooney called the meeting to order. Mr. Joe Still gave the invocation. The group remained standing for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Mooney.

Public Expression:

There was no Public Expression.

Public expression was closed.

Approval of Agenda:

Mr. Mooney stated there are some deletions from the agenda, due to the items being discussed during the previous meeting.

Deventae Mooney made a motion to amend the agenda, leaving only New Business (A.) Discussion of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget. Sharon Still seconded the motion, which resulted in all Ayes.

Deventae Mooney made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Rose Mary Holbrook seconded the motion, which resulted in all Ayes.

New Business:

- A. Discussion of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget - Council and attending representatives discussed the proposed budget. Council constructively reviewed each line item within the General Fund, Utility Fund, and Sewer Fund. The town manager and treasurer answered any questions Council had regarding certain revenues and expenditures. The town manager will make any amendments and provide Council with an updated version of the budget.

Mr. Jimmy Williams, Town Manager, discussed the upcoming changes to minimum wage and proposed a 7.67% increase in salaries to offset the increase in minimum wage.

He suggested starting that change in January. Mr. Williams had a spreadsheet of the old and new amounts for the group to review.

Mr. Williams will be meeting with VRSA on May 1st and will have a better idea of what the insurance will cost at that time.

Mr. Williams discussed changes to utility rates and trash pickup. The trash collection price will increase for commercial customers. Mr. Williams did not include the 5% increase in the utility bills. He thought the town was only doing that for a period of four years and that has been exceeded. Ms. Still stated that she thought Council had voted for a yearly 5% increase for utility bills. Ms. Still thought the vote was for a time period to be determined by necessity and will go on until Council stops it, because that rate affects the town's ability to borrow money. Mr. Mooney doesn't have an issue with the 5% water bill increase but does have an issue with the water increase affecting the sewer bill. Mr. Mooney feels the 130% sewer charge for in-town customers, and 150% for out-of-town customers is steep. Ms. Still suggested decreasing sewer charges by 5%. Mr. Mooney asked Mr. Williams to bring Council a comparison with the water rates increased by 5% and the sewer rates as they are now and a comparison with the water rates increased by 5% and the sewer rates at 125% for in-town customers and 135% for out-of-town customers.

Ms. Still asked about the Cost-of-Living Increase of 2.88%. Mr. Williams did not allow for this specifically but did include a 7.67% raise across the board to offset the minimum wage increase. Mr. Mooney asked if raises can be based off evaluations. Mr. Sturgill said the law doesn't say you can't but it's an area that is subjective. Mr. Williams said he has worked in places with a step-increase system where criteria must be met to move up on the pay scale. Ms. Still said the town doesn't have such a system in place and one would need to be made if that was to be used. Mr. Mooney would like to see a side by side with the current salary and proposed salary increase. Mr. Williams will provide that to Council.

Mayor Mooney asked Mr. Williams to put the discussion of the budget on the agenda for the May meeting and said a Saturday budget meeting will be necessary. Mr. Sturgill said the budget will need to be advertised seven days before the public hearing.

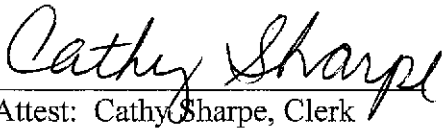
Council Comments and Concerns:

There were no comments or concerns from any member of Council.

Adjournment:

Mayor Deventae Mooney made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice Mayor Sharon Still seconded the motion, which resulted in all Ayes.

Respectfully Submitted,


Attest: Cathy Sharpe, Clerk


Deventae Mooney, Mayor